

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05282 250406Z
ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 USIA-15 AID-05 SY-05 AGRE-00
DEAE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 PC-05 L-03 SCA-01
SCS-05 TRSE-00 ST-01 A-01 /059 W
-----083972 250412Z /13/47

P 240930Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4718

UNCLAS SEOUL 5282

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUMMARY)

FOR S/CPR AND EA/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, AFSP
SUBJ: PRIVILEGES FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

REF: 2 FAM 224

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS ANNOUNCED IN NEWS MEDIA THAT EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, A VAT (VALUE ADDED TX) OF 10PCT WILL BE IMPOSED ON
SERVICES AND GOODS. PROBLEM ARISES AS TO EFFECT ON NON-
DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND OFFICIAL PURCHASES. END SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MOFA AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS INDICATE
DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO HOW NEW TAX WILL IMPACT UPON USG
OFFICIAL PURCHASES OR PURCHASES BY USG EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED
EMBASSY TOGETHER WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS.

2. RECENT MOFA NOTE AS WELL AS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONON
6/16/77 INDICATES TAX EXEMPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED ONLY TO
EMPLOYEES ON DIPLOMATIC LIST OR HOLDING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS.

3. ALTHOUGH POINTEDLY BROUGHT TO MOFA'S ATTENTION
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BY EMBASSY, THERE IS NO WILLINGNESS ON ROKG PART TO
CONSIDER EXISTING BI-LATERAL CONSULAR AGREEMENT OR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT. WHILE CONSULAR AGREEMENT HAS NO
PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS (ALL OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO CONSULAR SECTION
POSSESS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS), NEW VAT LAW WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES
FOR 83 EMPLOYEES WHO WILL BE SUBJECT TO THIS TAX (I.E. STATE
STAFF-41, USIS-1, AID-13, MSG-14, AGATT-1, DEA-1, DAO-5, FBIS-4,

PC-3).

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INFORMATION/BASIS AS TO EXTENT FEDERAL/STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS GRANTED TO STAFF OF KOREAN DIPLOMATIC/CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE U.S., BOTH THOSE WITH DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND THOSE WITHOUT. IN ADDITION, REQUIRE SAME INFORMATION APPLICABLE OFFICIAL PURCHASES (SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, SERVICES (INCLUDING CONTRACTS)) MADE BY KOREAN EMBASSY/CONSULATES.

5. REQUEST PROMPT REPLY TO ASSIST EMBASSY IN CLARIFYING SITUATION RELATIVE TO EFFECT ON EMBASSY PROCUREMENT OPERATIONS AS WELL AS ON NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.
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Message Attributes

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